

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-04

FBIE-00 TRSE-00 JUSE-00 SCCT-02 AF-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /095 W
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R 281150Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2003

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2335

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN PINS CU MO

SUBJ: U.S. HIJACKERS IN CUBA

REF: STATE 99757

1. WE DISCUSSED REFTEL INFORMALLY WITH RESPONSIBLE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL. HE SAID (AND LOCAL POLICE WHO DEAL WITH TOURIST VISAS CONFIRM) THAT ANYONE TRAVELLING CUBAN PASSPORT, OR WHO DOCUMENTED AS STATELESS PERSON, WOULD BE REQUIRED TO HAVE MOROCCAN VISA TO ENTER MOROCCO. HOWEVER, POLICE ADVISE THAT MOROCCAN EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES DO NOT ORDINARILY CHECK WITH RABAT BEFORE ISSUING VISAS TO CUBANS.

2. OFFICIAL PREFERRED NOT BECOME TOO SPECIFIC IN INFORMAL SITUATION ON QUESTIONS (B) AND (C) IN PARAGRAPH 2. OF REFTEL. HE NOTED THAT GOM'S OPPOSITION TO HIJACKING WELL KNOWN, AND POINTED OUT THAT WHEN IT WAS SUSPECTED THAT A U.S. HIJACKER MIGHT ATTEMPT TO LAND
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HIS COMMANDEERED AIRCRAFT HERE SEVERAL YEARS AGO, THE THEN

DEFENSE MINISTER HAD GONE TO AIRPORT PERSONALLY TO ARREST HIM. OFFICIAL INDICATED CLEARLY THAT GOM WOULD BE RELUCTANT ISSUE VISAS TO HIJACKERS AND THAT MOROCCANS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OUR ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING SUCH PERSONS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT CASES WITH POLITICAL OVERTONES WOULD REQUIRE MORE STUDY.

3. WERE HIJACKERS TO TRANSIT RABAT ON AEROFLOT FLIGHT FROM CUBA, OFFICIAL SAID, MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES WOULD FEEL CONSTRAINED TO DO NOTHING. PERSONS IN TRANSIT STATUS DO NOT LEGALLY ENTER COUNTRY AND GOM WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE UNWILLING VIOLATE THIS STATUS, EVEN IF AWARE IN ADVANCE THAT HIJACKERS WERE ON BOARD PARTICULAR FLIGHT.

4. OFFICIAL SAID EMBASSY MIGHT WISH SUBMIT NOTE ASKING WHETHER GOM WOULD BE WILLING INSTRUCT ITS EMBASSY IN HAVANA TO DENY VISAS TO PERSONS WHO WERE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED AS PERSONS LIABLE FOR PROSECUTION IN U.S. FOR HIJACKING. DOES DEPARTMENT WISH US TO DO THIS? WERE WE TO SUBMIT NOTE, WE ANTICIPATE THAT THERE WILL BE LONG DELAY BEFORE THIS NOTE ANSWERED. GIVEN LACK OF PRE-ISSUANCE CHECK ON VISA APPLICANTS, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH CONSIDER PROVIDING US WITH LIST OF SUSPECTED HIJACKERS WHO MIGHT APPLY FOR MOROCCAN VISAS. THIS LIST COULD BE GIVEN TO GOM, WHICH WE WOULD HOPE WOULD THEN ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS TO MOROCCAN EMBASSY IN HAVANA THAT VISAS BE DENIED.

5. OUR GENERAL BELIEF IS THAT MOROCCANS ARE WILLING TO HELP ON THIS ISSUE, AND THAT THEY WOULD WISH TO DO SO, WITHOUT PUBLICITY, BY DENYING VISAS IN HAVANA. WE ALSO SENSE THAT THEY WILL SHY AWAY FROM FORMAL COMMITMENTS TO US, THAT THEY WILL BE CAUTIOUS IN CASES WHICH APPEAR TO THEM TO HAVE POLITICAL OVERTONES, AND THAT, ABOVE ALL, THEY WILL WISH TO AVOID HAVING U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN ARRESTING OR ESCORTING HIJACKERS HERE IN MOROCCO.

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